

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----070436Z 051549 /12
R 070235Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9599
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2828

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA - MEETING WITH ADMIRAL SUDOMO

1. SUMMARY: ADMIRAL SUDOMO, PRIMARY INDONESIAN OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR 1965 DETAINEES, STATES THAT PLANS GOING FORWARD FOR IMPLEMENTING DECEMBER 1 DECISION TO RELEASE REMAINING 30,000 OVER THREE-YEAR PERIOD. VISIT OF US COORDINATOR ON HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE WELCOME AFTER INDONESIAN ELECTIONS. ADMIRAL RECEPTIVE TO POSSIBILITY VISIT BY INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MY RETURN FROM CONSULTATIONS, I MET WITH ADMIRAL SUDOMO OF KOPKAMTIB TO CONVEY IMPORTANCE NEW US ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION. REFERRING TO MY MEETING WITH NEW HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR MS. PATRICIAN DERIAN, I SAID THAT, FOLLOWING BY BRIEFING ON INDONESIAN SITUATION AND INTENTION OF GOVERNMENT, MS. DERIAN HAD RAISED QUESTION AS TO WHY REMAINING 30,000 DETAINEES COULD NOT BE RELEASED MORE QUICKLY.

3. ADMIRAL SAID HE WAS AWARE FROM HIS READING AND FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON OF IMPORTANCE NEW ADMINISTRATION ATTACHED TO HUMAN RIGHTS
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QUESTION. HE HAD ALSO BEEN ASKED QUESTION ABOUT EARLIER RELEASE OF DETAINEES. HE DID NOT EXCLUDE EARLIER RELEASE BUT PROCESS DEPENDED UPON THREE ELEMENTS: (A) CONDITIONING OF OUTSIDE COMMUNITY TO ACCEPT FORMER COMMUNIST LEADERS; (B) EMPLOYMENT OF THOSE RELEASED; AND (C) SECURITY. ADMIRAL SAID SECURITY WAS RELATIVELY MINOR CONSIDERATION; EMPLOYMENT WAS MAJOR CONCERN. HE REPORTED THAT RESETTLE-

MENT IN TRANSMIGRATION AREAS IS STILL PRIMARY SOLUTION TO EMPLOYMENT PROBLEM AND SAID HE IS ASKING MINISTER OF FINANCE TO PUT ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN BUDGET FOR NEW TRANSMIGRATION AREAS.

4. WHEN I EXPLAINED THAT OPINION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NOT LIKELY CONSIDER PROBLEM SOLVED IF DETAINEES ARE MERELY RELOCATED IN NEW CAMPS AND ARE NOT FREE TO MOVE, SUDOMO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS CONCERN. HE SAID THAT ULTIMATELY DETAINEES, INCLUDING THOSE ON BURU, WOULD BE FREE TO MOVE ALTHOUGH THEIR RESIDENCE OF REGISTRY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE IN RESETTLEMENT AREAS.

5. ADMIRAL ALSO SAID THAT SCREENING PROCESS NOW UNDERWAY TO SEPARATE THOSE OUT WHO ARE STILL UNRECONSTRUCTED COMMUNISTS. HE IMPLIED THAT THEY WOULD BE AMONG LAST TO BE RELEASED.

6. I ASKED ADMIRAL REGARDING RECENT VISIT OF ICRC TEAM. HE SAID GROUP HAD FOUND SOME IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS ALTHOUGH INDONESIA STILL HAD PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING SOME DETAINEES IN ANTIQUATED DUTCH PRISONS. ICRC WOULD RETURN TO COMPLETE CURRENT SURVEY AFTER INDONESIAN ELECTIONS MAY 2. ICRC VISIT HAD GONE SMOOTHLY EXCEPT THAT ONE MEMBER OF GROUP HAD ASKED ABOUT INDIVIDUATL DETAINEES AND THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GOI. ADMIRAL SUDOMO BELIEVED TEAM HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED TO DO THIS BY CARMEL DUGIARJO. (I TOOK OCCASIONS AT THIS POINT TO MENTION THAT MRS. BUDIARJO WAS SEEKING ANOTHER VISA FOR THE US AND THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION FELT CONFIDENTIAL

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IT WAS BETTER TO LET HER IN THAN GIVE HER BASIS FOR FURTHER AGITATION.)

7. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR ADMIRAL'S CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO KEEP ME POSTED ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, I SAID THAT THOSE CONCERNED IN US AND ELSEWHERE WOULD STILL BE TROUBLED ABOUT SITUATION IN INDONESIA UNTIL THEY WERE MORE SATISFIED THAT ALL DETAINEES WOULD HAVE FAIR CHANCE TO PRESENT THEIR CASE AND SEEK GENUING RELEASE. THOSE IN US WERE NOT ASKING INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SECURITY RISKS BUT THEY DID FEEL THAT FULL CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS REQUIRES THAT EACH PERSON HVE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE CASE REVIEWED IN ACCORDANCE DUE PROCESS OF LAW. SINCE SCREENING WAS TAKING PLACE I ASKED ADMIRAL WHETHER INDONESIA MIGHT CONSIDER VISIT FROM DELEGATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF JURISTS TO EXAMINE SCREENING PROCESS. ADMIRAL SAID HE WAS WILLING CONSIDER IDEA. I STRESSED THAT EVEN WITH BEST INTENTIONS INDONESIAN POSITION WOULD NOT BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD IN ABSENCE APPRAISAL BY RECOGNIZED IMPARTIAL

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

8. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER GOI HAD CONSIDERED EXPEDITING
RELEASE THROUGH SOME SYSTEM OF PAROLE, ADMIRAL SAID
INDONESIA DID NOT FAVOR SUCH SYSTEM. SINGAPORE HAD LAW

REQUIRING RELEASED DETAINEES TO REPORT REGULARLY BUT LAW
WAS SUBJECT TO ABUSE. INDONEIAN SYSTEM OF VILLAGE
ORGANIZATION MADE PAROLE SYSTEM UNNECESSARY.

9. FINALLY, I SUGGESTED TO ADMIRAL THAT VISIT BY COORDINATOR
FROM US MIGHT BE DESIRABLE IN ORDER THAT INDONESIA GET
DIRECT EXPRESSION OF NEW ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERNS. HE SAID
MS. DERIAN WOULD BE WELCOME AFTER ELECTIONS AND SUGGESTED
THAT AMBASSADOR RUSMIN MIGHT SEEK TO CALL UPON HER AND
EXTEND INVITATION WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JAKARTA02828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770077-0574
Format: TEL
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770387/aaaacyni.tel
Line Count: 139
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3189385
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA - MEETING WITH ADMIRAL SUDOMO
TAGS: SHUM, ID, (SUDOMO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c55781bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009